

Remarks

Claims 1-15 and 17-55 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-15 and 17-55 are currently rejected. Independent Claims 1, 15, 25, 50 and 51 have been amended. Specifically, Claim 1 has been amended to replace the term “lottery entry” with the term “printing”. Also, the limitation “in connection with a state-run lottery” has been added. Finally, Claims 15, 25, 50 and 51 have been amended to replace the term “central” with the term “state-run” with respect to lottery systems.

1.) *Rejection of Claims 1-15 and 17-55 for Obviousness:*

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-15 and 17-55 under 35 U.S.C. §103 for obviousness over U.S. Patent No. 6,685,563 (Meekins) in view of what is known to one of ordinary skill in the art. The Examiner has asserted that the terms “lottery entry means” and “central lottery system” are not supported by the parent applications that predated Meekins.

a.) *Priority Support for Amendments to Claims 1, 15, 25, 50 and 51:*

The Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner’s conclusions and maintains prior arguments regarding priority claims over Meekins. However, in a good faith effort to move prosecution forward, independent Claims 1, 15, 25, 50 and 51 have been amended. Claim 1 has been amended to replace the term “lottery entry” with “printing” and “in connection with a state-run lottery” while Claims 15, 25, 50 and 51 have been amended to incorporate the term “state-run lottery”. These terms are copied from portions of the specification of the present Application and the terms are also fully supported in the specification of Parent Patent 08/994,075 (U.S. Patent 6,146,276). The 08/994,075 Patent was filed on 12/19/1997 and therefore clearly pre-dates Meekins.

Priority Support for "Printing"

Support for the amendment to Claim 1 to replace the term "lottery entry" with the term "printing" can be found at least as early as the 08/994,075 Patent. A specific example of support includes:

Connected in information transmission connection with the event detection sampling device is an event occurrence information signal computing device which is operative to receive and analyze the event occurrence information signals output by the event detection sampling device and upon detection of selected event occurrence information signals, output command signals for initiating at least one connected output device to perform a selected operation corresponding to the outputted command signal. Emphasis added. (08/994,075, Col 5, Lines 33-43)

...output command signals for initiating operation of output devices such as an audio board, a printer or assorted lights.
Emphasis added. (08/994,075, Col 4, Lines 44-46)

Priority Support for "State Run Lotteries"

Support the amendment to Claim 1 to use the term "state run lotteries" can be found at least as early as the 08/994,075 Patent. A specific example of support includes:

One other possible use of the present invention is as a tie-in with state-run lotteries in which the network capabilities of the present invention would be used to provide a wide-area "Powerball" type jackpot payoff on one particular combination being achieved. Emphasis added. (08/994,075, Col 16, Lines 22-26)

Since the present amendments to Claims 1, 15, 25, 50 and 51 are fully supported by the 08/994,075 Patent and have a priority date of at least 12/19/1997, the rejection based on Meekins is overcome for at least these reasons. Additionally, all remaining claims are dependent claims and either depend directly or indirectly from the currently amended independent claims and therefore overcome the rejections for at least the same reasons.

2.) Conclusion:

In view of the preceding remarks and amendments, the rejections have been overcome. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of all outstanding rejections and an issuance of a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims. Please apply any additional fees or credits to Deposit Account #: 50-4293, Reference #: A9658-81022.

Respectfully Submitted,

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